

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the Office Action mailed March 14, 2006.

By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 7. Thus, in view of the amendment to claim 1, claims 6 and 7 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to their underlying subject matter. Support for the claim amendments can be found throughout the specification and the original claims. Thus, claims 1 and 3-5 are pending in this application.

In view of these amendments, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1 and 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Wang et al. (U.S. Patent 5,769,931). Further, claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Omatsu et al. (U.S. Patent 6,406,204). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. However, to expedite the allowance of the present application, Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 7. Thus, in view of the amendment to claim 1, these rejections can no longer be sustained and should be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 USC § 103

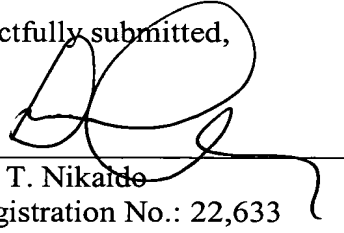
Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Wang et al. or Omatsu et al. either of which in view of Miyabayashi et al. (U.S. Patent 6,590,012). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, to expedite the allowance of the present application, Applicant has canceled claim 6 thereby rendering moot this rejection.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, all of the claims now pending in the present application are believed to be clearly patentable over the outstanding rejections. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the claims in light of the above remarks is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 180013 for any such fees; and applicant(s) hereby petition for any needed extension of time.